

Timely Tidbits ...

Used Book Sale Benefits the Romulus Library

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library is seeking donations of gently used books and electronic media for its upcoming semiannual Used Book Sale. Donations may be dropped off at the library (11121 Wayne Road) during its normal business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m.

According to library director Shelley DeLano, the sale will be held April 20–22 and April 25 during regular library hours.

Monday through Wednesday, shoppers will find adult hardcovers for \$1.50, adult paperbacks for \$.50 to \$1, children's hardcovers for \$.50, children's paperbacks for \$.25, and most DVDs/videos/CDs/records for \$1. Saturday, aka "Bag Day," will feature even bigger deals. Shoppers can fill a sack with books for just \$2.25.

For info, call 734-942-7589.

Spaghetti Dinners Aid Taylor World Series

Weekly all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners will raise money for the Junior League World Series of baseball.

The Perfect Pitcher Sports Club (12900 Beech Daly, just north of Northline Road in Taylor) is holding \$5 spaghetti dinners from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday.

Chip Pepitone, disc jockey and kitchen manager at Perfect Pitcher, said the business had been looking for a way to get more involved in the community, and decided that the Junior League World Series was a perfect candidate for fund-raising efforts.

The JLWS – a tournament for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-olds from around the world – was founded in Taylor in 1981, and has been played at Heritage Park ever since. It's the big brother of the Little League World Series for 12-year-olds, played in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The 29th annual Junior League World Series is scheduled for Sunday through Saturday, August 16–22.

For more information about the spaghetti dinners, call 734-947-9707.

For info on the JLWS, visit www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries. □

Dingell Introduces Bill To Tax Executives Getting Mega-Bonuses from TARP-Assisted Companies

Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI15) has introduced the "Responsible Corporate Executive Compensation Act of 2009," which would make bonuses to employees of companies receiving funds from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) subject to a 95% tax.

The legislation, introduced March 17, followed an announcement that American International Group (AIG), recipient of \$170 billion in TARP funds, is awarding \$165 million in employee bonuses.

"This legislation sends a clear message that excessive compensation practices by TARP recipients are indefensible and, as such, must be heavily penalized," Dingell stated. "It is unconscionable that companies dependent upon the largesse of the federal government for their very existence should, in turn, pay the very employees partially responsible for our current calamity such irresponsibly exorbitant bonuses.

"From their glass towers, they frittered away our nation's economic well-being," he continued. "These scoundrels picked the

cash right out of the retirements and college funds of America's workers to pay for a wild investment experiment. Compare that to the men and women who work on the assembly lines now being asked to give back portions of their hourly wage – also guaranteed by a contract – to justify the rescue of manufacturers. If we can demand that decent people who wear hard hats and blue jeans must renegotiate their contracts, I see no reason those bad actors wearing neck ties and thousand-dollar suits should be protected from helping their country in this time of need."

Dingell noted that their contracts will be honored, but added, "We'll also ask them to pay for the mess they helped create – a mess that, unfortunately, only the federal government and taxpayer dollars can fix.

"Eighty percent of AIG is owned by American taxpayers, and I think they've made it abundantly clear the last few days how they feel about these bonuses. They are telling us that they want their money back. It is time we make sure their wishes



Congressman John D. Dingell

are carried out. Whatever the business getting help, we in Congress must make sure we are in the business of good government that represents the interests of all of the American people." □

"Hire Michigan First" Package Passes House, Moves to Senate

Representative Douglas Geiss (D-Taylor) was among a block of area Democrats who supported the recent passage of House Bills 4083–4094, a job-creation plan which will reward companies that employ only Michigan workers through the establishment of various State economic-development initiatives.

The "Hire Michigan First" initiative will also crack down on companies that employ undocumented workers by creating a number of stiff penalties.

"With our state facing the highest unemployment rate we've seen in over two decades, it's important for the Legislature to take quick action on this job-creating plan," said Geiss. "Hire Michigan First will help create new opportunities for our workers, and give our working families the support they need.

"I urge my colleagues in the Senate to move quickly on this plan," he added.

According to information released by the House Democratic Communications office, the "Hire Michigan First" plan:

- awards State tax breaks and other economic development incentives to companies that hire the most Michigan residents. This rule would apply to projects handled by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and certain State-

funded programs, including the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and the Renaissance Zone Act.

- encourages transparency and accountability by requiring companies that accept incentives to report on who they hire, ensuring that Michigan residents are put first.
- creates penalties for companies that hire undocumented workers, requiring them to pay back their tax incentives, and barring them from future State contracts.

State Representative Diane Slavens (D-Canton), a sponsor of the plan, said, "When taxpayer dollars are used to create jobs, it's only right that Michigan workers are first in line for those jobs. We can't let workers from other states and countries snatch up the jobs that our highly skilled workers are qualified for. In these tough times, when every job counts, we must stand up for our workers here in Michigan."

Representative Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights), another of the plan's sponsors, agrees.

"This plan rewards companies that invest in Michigan workers. Too many of our workers' jobs have been lost to outsourcing or downsizing. This plan will create jobs in our state for our workers, which is exactly what we need right now."

Representative Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) sponsored a part of the plan that will prevent companies that knowingly hire illegal immigrants from receiving State tax incentives.

"We must reward businesses that hire Michigan workers, rather than businesses that choose to hire illegal workers," he stated. "Companies that don't play by the rules give themselves an unfair advantage over businesses that do.

"This plan ensures that honest businesses will be rewarded for creating jobs for our workers."

Among organizations that have recently testified or otherwise indicated support for the plan are the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Sheet Metal Workers Local 80, and the Michigan Laborers' District Council.

Those that oppose at least some of the bills – including HB 4085 and 4086, which require 100% of workers to be Michigan residents for one year before beginning work, and prohibit vendors from participating in bids if they have violated certain regulations – include the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Associated Builders and Contractors. □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.

Attacks on Mayor Unfounded

To the Editor:

Election years always prove to be interesting times, and this year in Romulus is proving to be no exception. In the most recent issue of *the little paper* (March 6, 2009), the mayoral candidacy announcement of Councilman Harry Crout and a letter to the editor by resident John Clark indicate an interesting campaign has begun. Most political observers in Romulus know that these two are close friends, so it was no surprise to see their double-barrel attack on the current mayor, Alan Lambert. And, in saying that, both these men must think Romulus voters are pretty naive to believe their assertions.

Mr. Clark claims that Mayor Lambert has no right to take credit for our beautiful new Romulus Senior Center, which was built with Community Development Block Grant funds. He claims that City Council voted "yes" on the project, and thus should be given acclaim for this achievement. So, I would like to know which City Council member proposed this project, worked out the financial details, and supervised the construction? In attempting to assail Mayor Lambert, Mr. Clark shows his ignorance by the mere fact that the council is a legislative body, not an administrative one. Further, Mr. Clark conveniently leaves out the important fact that the new senior center was built *without* a tax increase to Romulus residents.

Another issue that Mr. Clark attacks is the new Romulus Athletic Center. Since 1970, there have been at least four attempts to get city voters to approve a tax increase proposal for the construction of a recreation center. Yes, all were turned down. But, during his campaign in 2001, Mayor Lambert pledged to get one built. Here, again, Mr. Clark shows his ignorance – this time, of the Tax Increment Finance Authority Act. TIFA does not raise taxes for any project it undertakes. TIFA receives reimbursement through normal tax payments of the specified TIFA district, which has been previously adopted. So, Mr. Clark's question of how much or how long Romulus residents will pay for the construction of this much-

needed facility is ludicrous. And, again, he conveniently fails to give credit to Mayor Lambert for building this gorgeous facility *without* raising residents' taxes.

Romulus residents who attend or watch City Council meetings can attest that the intricate details of these two projects have been spelled out and clearly defined at Council meetings. However, if one refuses to listen due to petty political hang-ups, the information, no matter how clearly explained, will never get through.

I would also like to comment on Mr. Crout's candidacy for mayor. One certainly has a right to run for any office; but, when that person misconstrues the truth as carelessly as Mr. Crout has, it is incumbent that one's ignorance be exposed.

To assert that the community has "endured neglect" and suffered from "self-serving politics" is nothing short of laughable. If anything, Mr. Crout's tenure on City Council has been a failure. He should be known as "Mr. No." It is easy to claim to be a fighter for the taxpayer, and another thing to be an obstructionist.

As an observer of most all of the City Council meetings, I have been astounded at the reluctance of Mr. Crout to grasp the simple facts on any given issue, particularly TIFA. Although TIFA's workings are somewhat complicated, a little effort on his part to understand this economic development tool put in place by the State of Michigan in the early 1980s would easily explain most of his concerns.

Mr. Crout further questions our fire department, and says improvements are needed in medical emergency response. I would take his comments as a slam at our dedicated firefighters and their abilities. To my knowledge, any Romulus residents needing emergency services have been more than satisfied, as many previous letters in this paper have indicated.

Mr. Crout additionally states that there is a lack of police presence in our neighborhoods. Again, I would say that is a slam at our dedicated police officers. The Romulus Police Department has been very responsive to neighborhood concerns, and has, over the years, worked with many community groups seeking to make their neighborhoods safer. Any person with the slightest common sense realizes that there cannot be a policeman on every corner, and police activity on any given day dictates the

ability to patrol neighborhoods. I believe Mr. Crout should issue an immediate apology to the dedicated men and women of our police department. To make such public comments, calling out our police department, is appalling.

Furthermore, Mr. Crout proposes using stimulus package funds, TIFA funds, and grant money for road repairs. Where has this council member been for the last three and a half years? The Lambert administration has already been doing this, including a major street project currently in progress using TIFA funds! Romulus has requested and been approved for \$1.6 million for roads from the recently passed Congressional stimulus funding. I wish that Mr. Crout would make up his mind. He lambastes Mayor Lambert for using TIFA funds, then proposes using the same avenues for improvements that Mayor Lambert has been doing for two terms.

In closing, if Mr. Crout's record as a council member is any indication of the "potential" mayor he would be, God help this city!

Barry Baumann
Romulus

"Topless" Naysayers Thanked

To the Editor:

At the Romulus City Council meeting of March 9, Council approved the transfer of ownership of an escrowed 2008 Class C and SDM licensed business with entertainment and topless activity permit, located at 36431 Goddard (the Landing Strip), from Rexco Investments to Nappo Holding, Inc., along with a request for a new dance permit.

I want to thank the three Council members who voted "no": Councilman Harry Crout, Councilman John Barden, and Council Chairman Randy Gear.

Councilman Crout stated that the Landing Strip has been closed for about seven months, and the city has done just fine without having topless dancing in the downtown area. He also stated that we can do much better than this. Councilman Barden said that many residents are against topless dancing downtown.

I agree that topless activity does not belong in our downtown area.

Shawn Caldwell
Romulus

continued on page 3

the little paper

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City of Taylor's New "Green" Web Site Debuts, Fittingly, on St. Patrick's Day

The City of Taylor's new "green" Web site went live at noon on Tuesday, March 17 – the greenest day of the year. The site, www.MyGreenTaylor.com, touts the City's many environmentally friendly advancements, and provides links for residents and businesses interested in following suit.

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe said Taylor has been lauded as one of the greenest cities in Michigan, and has won several awards for its achievements. The Web site sheds light on the City's use of alternative fuel vehicles, advancements in wind energy, and environmental actions that have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mayor Priebe said the new Web site is a further commitment toward green initiatives.

"We want everyone to know green is about our collective commitment to future generations," Mayor Priebe said. "We want to leave the world as good as or better than we found it. It's about our children and grandchildren. It's about today, but it's about our future."

The Mayor credited the Department of Public Works for spearheading the City's green agenda. He noted that the Web site is a joint effort of the DPW, the Department of Information Technology, and the Department of Public Information.

DPW superintendent Bob Mach said Taylor was fortunate to get a head start on green initiatives, starting with the implementation of a compost site, the use of alternative fuel vehicles in the City fleet, and the realization that "dialing down" in City buildings is not only the right thing to do, it saves taxpayers' dollars.

He added that the Web site will allow the City to share its advances with other communities, thereby promoting the development of a "greener Downriver, greener Michigan, and greener United States."

Snehal Patel, director of Information Technology, said the new site was designed by Michael Vela, who made it both attractive and functional.

Public Information director David Gorgon and Special Projects manager Kathleen Trent culled the information and photographs for the site. Gorgon noted the site will be a work in progress, meaning it can be updated any day with new initiative.

"We thought it was appropriate to launch www.MyGreenTaylor.com on the greenest day of the year," Gorgon said before the big day. "If you see lots of people wearing green on Tuesday, you can think St. Patrick's Day if you like, but we're thinking some will be celebrating Green Taylor as well." □

Guest Commentary

Toxic Wells Threaten Romulus Again; Citizens Can Make a Stand at Town Hall

Dear residents:

My office is hosting a Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 30, in the city council chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road). We cordially invite you to attend this very important meeting.

The focus of our discussion is the controversial toxic waste wells that our citizens have opposed for nearly 20 years. As many will remember, the wells were shut down in 2006 because of repeated hazardous leaks and other violations which put lives and property at risk.

Unfortunately, a process is now under way that could lead to a reopening of the wells. If we do not fight any new attempts to reopen, the hazardous waste wells will put the public health and property in danger yet again. That's why I urge all citizens to attend this Town Hall meeting to make their voices heard.

During the meeting, residents will hear the latest updates on this issue and, just as important, elected officials at the local, county, and state levels have been invited so that you, the citizens, can directly voice your concerns regarding the toxic waste wells.

For nearly 20 years, I have stood with our citizens, community leaders, businesses, and environmental groups in opposition to these wells. The message from our residents is clear and unambiguous: These dangerous wells must be shut down permanently, period.

The wells have made our community a magnet for dangerous, hazardous industrial trash. They have put our public safety and public health at risk. They have negatively affected property values and, at times, discouraged new investments and new jobs from coming to our community.

The bottom line is this: The dangerous toxic waste brought into the area and the trash trucks that have been involved in so many accidents put the lives of our citizens at risk. That's why families throughout southeast Michigan are saying 'No' to the Canadian and out-of-state toxic garbage flooding into our communities.

Our state and federal leaders in Lansing and Washington have stood with us in the past. We urge them to stand with us again. We must make it clear that we need their continued efforts to ensure the wells never open again. This one issue affects the health of our community and our ability to attract jobs and protect property values. Our

future can be better—when these wells are closed and capped for good. Unfortunately, powerful forces are trying to reopen these wells, and that's why we must stand together once more.

In 2005, when the wells opened briefly for a 10-month period, the facility racked up more than a dozen violations, including toxic leaks that threatened public health and property.

Local news media have indicated that reopening the wells will be potentially dangerous to citizens. WDIV-TV reported on February 18 that reopening the wells, which had been licensed to take in 400,000 gallons of toxic waste daily, would reopen the door for hazardous trash from Canada to flood into our community. On February 17, the *Detroit Free Press* criticized the plan to reopen the wells.

We want to generate new jobs and a clean community, not more toxic trash from other states and Canada. This hazardous waste facility threatens our very quality of life.

We have invited Governor Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Congressman John Dingell, U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, State Senator Ray Basham, State Representatives Doug Geiss and Deb Kennedy, and other officials from federal and state regulatory agencies (including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) to take part in the meeting.

Please join us at this meeting and bring your friends and family. You can help us send the message loud and clear: The toxic wells should never be allowed to reopen.

Together, we can protect our quality of life and build a stronger future for Romulus. I hope to see you at the March 30 Town Hall meeting. Thank you for your support.

Mayor Alan R. Lambert
City of Romulus

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

Historical Society Update

To the Editor:

The Romulus Historical Society held its first meeting of the year on January 21 at the historic Samuel R. Kingsley house. Officers elected at the meeting were:

- Gerald Wendland, president
- Cathy Morse, vice-president
- Gloria Chandler, treasurer
- Genevieve Dugan, recording secretary
- Kenneth Krueger, corresponding secretary

The next meeting of the Society will be at the Kingsley house at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. The Kingsley house is located across from the Romulus Historical Museum at 11147 Hunt Street. The public is invited to attend.

The Society is seeking graduation programs from Romulus High School for any year. We currently have yearbooks from the 1940s to the present day. The information contained in the graduation programs will complete our collection. All that is required is a copy; we do not need the original. Please call 734-697-9628 if you can contribute to this project.

Work on the Peter and Mary Bird

house continues. We are still seeking donations towards this worthwhile project. Donors of \$500 or more will have their name added to a special commemorative plaque that will be on display.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Romulus Historical Society. The first meeting was held on January 17, 1979; the group received its charter later that year. The first officers were:

- Pearl Varner, president
- Al Wilkerson, vice-president
- Helen Morris Hay, secretary
- Gloria Chandler, treasurer

The group plans to celebrate the landmark at its annual Party in the Park on Wednesday, July 15. Look for more information in *the little paper* in June.

The Society would like to express its thanks to CPA Kathy Billings – a partner in the firm of Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel (Wayne, MI) – for assisting us in filing our annual federal and state tax forms. This service is provided to us free of charge.

The Museum and historic Samuel R. Kingsley house are open to the public on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. We also have an excellent archive. Come visit us.

Pearl Varner, director
Romulus Historical Museum □

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Romulus Eagles Advance to Regionals



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert and his fiancée, Diane Banks, were among the many local residents at Wayne Memorial High School on March 13 for the Romulus High School boys' basketball team's 48-45 district championship win over Belleville. The Eagles have since beaten Taylor Truman, 50-46, in the first round of the regional tournament (March 16 at Wyandotte Roosevelt), and were to play Ypsilanti Lincoln on March 18 (results unavailable at press time). If victorious, the Eagles will move to the quarterfinals, to be held March 24 at University of Detroit Mercy. *Photo by R. E. Kuda*

Veterinarian Thanked for Support of Romulus Animal Shelter Fund



Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (right) stopped in at Fluff -n- Puff Pet Grooming's low-cost vaccination clinic on March 13 to thank Dr. John Hermann, veterinarian, for his continued support of the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund. Dr. Hermann, who volunteered his time at the City's annual pet inoculations fair on February 21, donated his proceeds from the event - \$1,100 - to the animal shelter fund, and plans to donate proceeds from the Fluff -n- Puff clinic, as well. Altogether, according to Wadsworth, Dr. Hermann has given more than \$5,000 to the fund. *Photo by R. E. Kadau*

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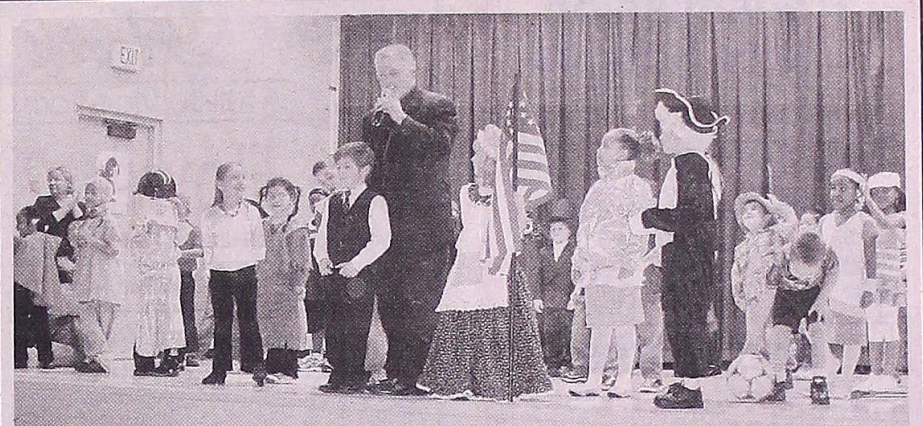
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Barth Elementary Students' Program Celebrated Our Wonderful World



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert and his "Wonderful World" counterpart, Noah Zachrey, were surrounded by colorfully clad kids representing significant figures from yesterday, today, and the timeless world of fiction. Photo by R. E. Kadam

Barth Elementary School in Romulus commemorated Black History Month with its annual production of "What a Wonderful World." The program, which celebrated cultural diversity, featured kindergarten students dressed as significant figures from history, the present day, and the world of fiction. Readings, recitations, and songs from older students were also highlighted.

Mrs. Brim's Kindergartners

- Michael Babowicz (David Beckham)
- Kadin Bates (veterinarian)
- Joseph Blankenship (Thomas Edison)
- Hunter Blanton (Willis Carrier)
- Jaylin Cline (Benjamin Banneker)
- Matthew Dennis (Alexander Graham Bell)
- Dazzman Dupree (Dr. Charles Drew)
- Casandra Gilson (Amelia Earhart)
- Kianna Green (Mrs. Brim)
- Destiny Haskins (Sally Ride)
- Jayden Hubbard (Ray Charles)
- Tyanna Hughes (Raven-Symoné)
- Derek Jones (Tiger Woods)
- Max Kain (Bill Martin)
- Scott Krebs (John Love)
- Terrence Luster (Garrett Morgan)
- Nay'sha Moore (Michelle Obama)
- Benjamin Oaks (Ben Tennyson)
- Ashton Patterson (Madeline)
- Kiara Rosales (Pocahontas)
- Dylan Statham (Elvis Presley)
- Ashanti Whitley (Oprah Winfrey)

Mrs. Richard's Kindergartners

- Deacon Avery (sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps)
- Alexander Boatright (Abraham Lincoln)
- Nevaeh Bozeman (Rosa Parks)
- Amari Brim (Serena Williams)
- Madison Britt (Betsy Ross)
- Alexis Buckley (Mrs. Richard)
- Evan Butler (President Barack Obama)
- Joseph Cipleu (Dr. Seuss)
- Alyssa De Vita (Susan B. Anthony)
- Jeremy Falsetti (Joe Montana)
- Alexandra Frederick (Sandra Day O'Connor)
- Ariana Geer (Mae Jemison)
- Isabella Huff (Jacqueline Kennedy)
- Jonathan Jackson (Muhammad Ali)

- Tracy King (Michael Jordan)
- James Lefebvre (Henry Ford)
- Courtney Luokkala (Diane Sawyer)
- Robert Malloy (Clifford)
- Logan Marth-Allgood (fireman)
- Brian Newsome (police officer)
- Nicholas Paige (Steve Yzerman)
- Alexandria Patton (Sacagawea)
- Nicole Prybyla (Mother Teresa)
- Zoey Smith (Mrs. Golka)
- Grace Thomas (Little Red Riding Hood)
- Malik Thomason (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- Adam Zabik (George Washington)
- Noah Zachrey (Mayor Alan R. Lambert)

Second-grade Performers

Alaya Beasley, Grace Boatright, Nicholas Bossidis, Lorenz Braden, Trinity Brim, Andrew Bunyak, Jordyn Carroll, Cobie Caswell, Mackenzie Chapman, Miriam Cipleu, Nashawn Craig, Arianna DeMars, DeCarlo Easterling, Adrianna Fauls, Madolyn Frederick, Earle Gamble, Garrett Garland, Jacob Garland, Justin Garland, Nathaniel Geer, Destiny Grinder, Connor Hall, Jonna Hammons-Matelic, Jasmine Huff, Phillip Huff, Myanna Hughes, Amari Hunter, Laura Jensen, Deon Kersey, Katelyn Kouba, Adil Krnic, Edmund Laura, Alexis Linderman, Jack Luciow, Kailah Mahon, Ricky Mason, Alyssa McClendon, John McCutcheon, Jordan Melchor, Blaine Montgomery, Ronald Moody, Kerstin Murry, Sabrina Nathaniel, Nicholas Pace, Ryan Pinkowski, Emily Ridley, Hailey Salmons, Kayla Sauers, Alexa Saval, Martin Schneider, Shelby Slone, DeAngelo Stovall, Jamison Street, Dazhané Sudduth, Jillian Sullivan, Nia Talley, Zach Taylor, Nicholas Terry, Haley Toner, Dylan Zagula, and Dylan Ziegler.

Heritage Song Performers

Kayla Brooks, Sierra Coleman, and Jessica Dunn.

Story-time Readers

Andrea Bagley, Herbie Buckley, Emily Burcroff, Amir Butler, Deanna Hearod, Jutta Kemutambah, Alexis Paige, and Paige Randall. □

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Prize Winners



Ashley Kerwood (center), a student at Halecreek Elementary in Romulus, was chosen from among thousands of entrants as a winner of the ArtStamps Award of Accomplishment for her colorful artwork (pictured above). On hand for the presentation were her principal, Jason Salhaney, and art teacher Carrie Dygert.



Kristi Gaddis and family were the winners of a "Let's Build a Snowman!" contest recently conducted by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation. Their "snow girl" - pictured above, along with Gaddis family members Chelsea and Kara - earned them a \$20 Wal-Mart gift certificate.

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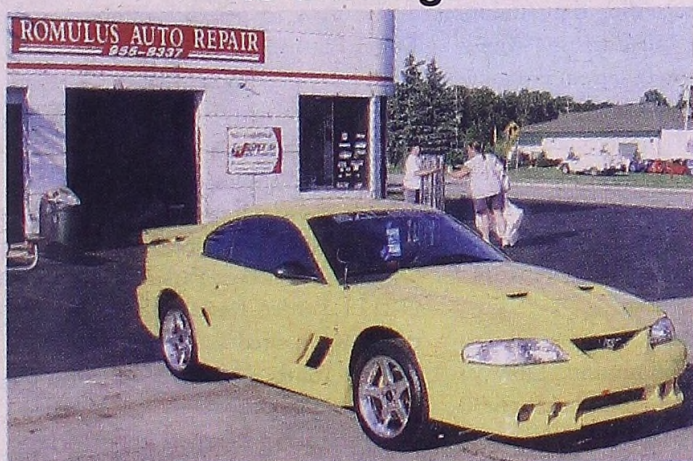
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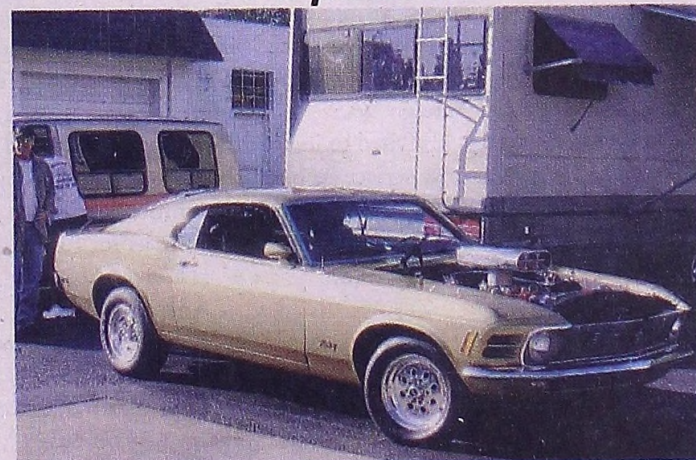
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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

Belleville

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser

Myrtle Lodge #89 Blue Wave Club (515 Main Street) will hold an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser to benefit the lodge and local charities on Wednesday, March 25, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6 to 10. Children under 6 eat free!

"Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

"Thunder Rolls" Honors Veterans

Brown Funeral Home and Brown Family Center will sponsor "Thunder Rolls in Belleville" – a Memorial Day celebration that will pay tribute to veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives to protect our nation – on Monday, May 25. The program will begin with a police-escorted motorcycle cavalcade that will run from Wayne County Community College's Western Campus (Haggerty Road just north of I-94) to the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park (High Street just east of Main Street). Registration and lineup will start at 11 a.m. in the college's front parking lot. All riders are welcome. Proceeds from the \$10-per-person registration fee will be used to help local veterans and their families through the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Afterward, the public is invited to join local veterans for a memorial service to be held at Horizon Park at about 2 p.m.

For information, call 734-697-5090 or e-mail browngriefcenter@yahoo.com.

Huron Township

Nursery To Hold Open House

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery (located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig Street) will hold an Open House on Tuesday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will give parents of prospective students a chance to see what the nursery offers for three- and four-year-olds. HCCN programs focus on kindergarten readiness, social development, art, music, and exercise. Field trips are also included in the nursery's curriculum.

Call 734-355-9700 for information.

Romulus

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (37200 Neville Street) will host an All-You-Can-Eat Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday through April 3.

Dinner includes choice of baked or fried fish; macaroni & cheese, seasoned potatoes, or French fries; green beans, cole slaw, roll, dessert, and beverage.

Cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children ages 4 to 10. Children 3 and under eat free (with adult purchase). Three-piece carry-out dinners will be available for \$8 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Easter Eggs'travanza

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will host its annual Easter Eggs'travanza at Senior Citizens Park (located behind the Romulus Senior Center at 36525 Bibbins Street) on Saturday, April 11, *rain, snow, or shine*. Upon arrival, participants should report to the patio behind the Center.

Egg hunts, which will begin promptly at noon, will be divided into four age groups:

- 3 years and under,
- 4 to 5 years,
- 6 to 7 years, and
- 8 to 10 years.

Children must bring their own basket/bag to hold their eggs. Some eggs will contain tickets, redeemable for special prizes.

No preregistration is required for this free event. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be available for \$2 each.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Mom-2-Mom Sale

Shop for gently used children's items at a Mom-2-Mom Sale being hosted by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road). Aisles will be wide enough for strollers, so bring your little ones with you!

Tables (10'x8' space with table) are available for \$25. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

For information, call the Parks and Recreation Department: 734-941-8665.

Free Permits for Citywide Yard Sale

Romulus residents are invited to take part in the annual Citywide Yard Sale, set for Thursday, May 14, through Sunday, May 17. (If two or more of the sale dates are "rained out," the event will be rescheduled for May 28–31.)

To register for a free sale permit – *and have your address included in free newspaper advertising for the event* – stop in at the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation Office (located in the Romulus Athletic Center at 35765 Northline Road) between Monday, March 23, and Wednesday, April 22.

Residents registering after the deadline will receive a free permit, but may not be included in any advertisements.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Class of 1979 Plans 30-Year Reunion

Romulus High School's Class of 1979 is planning a 30-year reunion to be held sometime in August.

For information about the event – which will also be open to the classes of 1977, '78, '80, and '81 – call either Duane (248-459-3399) or Lisa (734-624-0901). Note: Information about "lost" classmates would be appreciated.

Class of 2000 Plans 10-year Reunion

Romulus High School's Class of 2000 is planning its 10-year reunion, to be held sometime in 2010. Planners for the event are looking for class members' contact information (home address, phone number, and e-mail address) so they can be included on the invitation list. Members are also welcome to take part in meetings to discuss and make decisions regarding the reunion.

For information, call Christina Wands at 734-272-6218, or send her an e-mail at mexicangoddess82@yahoo.com. Information can also be found on Myspace (<http://groups.myspace.com/classof00>).

Taylor

Craft Time at the Library Will Feature Easter Theme

Children in grades K–3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's next Craft Time program, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25.

Although there is no fee to attend the program, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, advance registration is required because space is limited.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

Willy Wonka Junior

The Taylor Youth Theater and the City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation will present *Willy Wonka Junior*, based on the Roald Dahl children's classic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Showtimes will be 7:30 p.m. on March 27, March 28, April 3, and April 4, and at 3 p.m. on April 5. All performances will be given at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road).

Tickets (\$8; \$6 for senior citizens and students) are available at the Taylor Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road). Tickets also will be available at the Community Center beginning one hour from showtime.

For information, call 734-374-3906 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Dinner Benefits "Warriors" Museum

A spaghetti dinner to benefit the new City of Taylor American Warriors Museum – currently under construction at City Hall to honor members of the armed forces – will be held at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4422 (11590 Pine Street) on Thursday, April 2, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Donation: \$10. Please make checks payable to VFW Post 4422.

Easter Egg Hunts

Easter egg hunts for Taylor children ages three to eight are set for Saturday, April 4, at Heritage Park. Families will report to the Activity Building, then be transported to the baseball field for the event.

Kids will be divided into three groups:

- ages 3–4 (activities at 9 a.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m.),
- ages 5–6 (activities at 11 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at noon), and
- ages 7–8 (activities at 1 p.m., followed by an egg hunt at 2 p.m.).

Staff members will provide bags. Children should not bring bags or baskets.

Advance registration (required) is now being accepted at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road).

Cost is \$3 per child. Photos with the Easter Bunny and face-painting will be offered for an additional fee.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

Taylor Teen Bands Sought for "Battle"

Taylor teen bands are invited to compete for the grand prize at the annual Battle of the Bands, to be held on Friday, April 24, at the Heritage Park Activity Building (12111 Pardee Road). Showtime for the event, sponsored by Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's Youth Advisory Council, is 6 p.m. to midnight.

Admission for spectators is \$5.

For details on entering your band, call 734-374-4033. Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 31.

Elsewhere

St. Mary Accepting Registrations

St. Mary Catholic School, located at 34516 Michigan Avenue in Wayne, is now accepting registrations for the 2009–2010 school year for grades K–8.

For information, call 734-721-1240.

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Geiss Opens Local Office for Residents' Convenience

State Representative Doug Geiss has opened a local office on the second floor of Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard Road). Hours will be from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Fridays.

He has also established a toll-free phone number for his Lansing office: 1-888-REP-GEISS (888-737-4347).

Pizza Kits Net Cash for KHS Band Trip to D.C.

Net proceeds from the sale of Little Caesars Pizza Kits will help the Kennedy High School Band cover expenses for its upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., to march in the National Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Kits start at \$12.

To place your order, contact Charley Johnson (313-304-2173).

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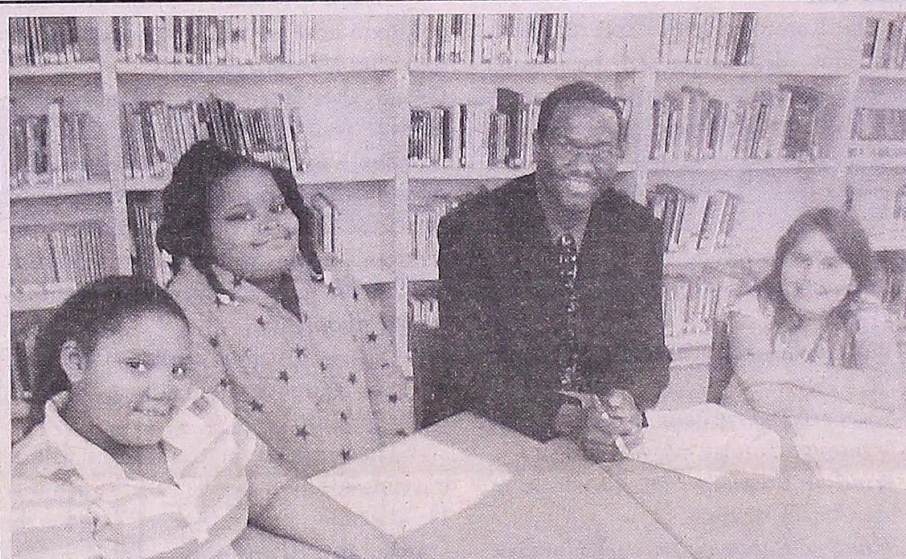
- macaroni and cheese • boxed potatoes, pasta, and rice •
- peanut butter and jelly • canned goods of all kinds •

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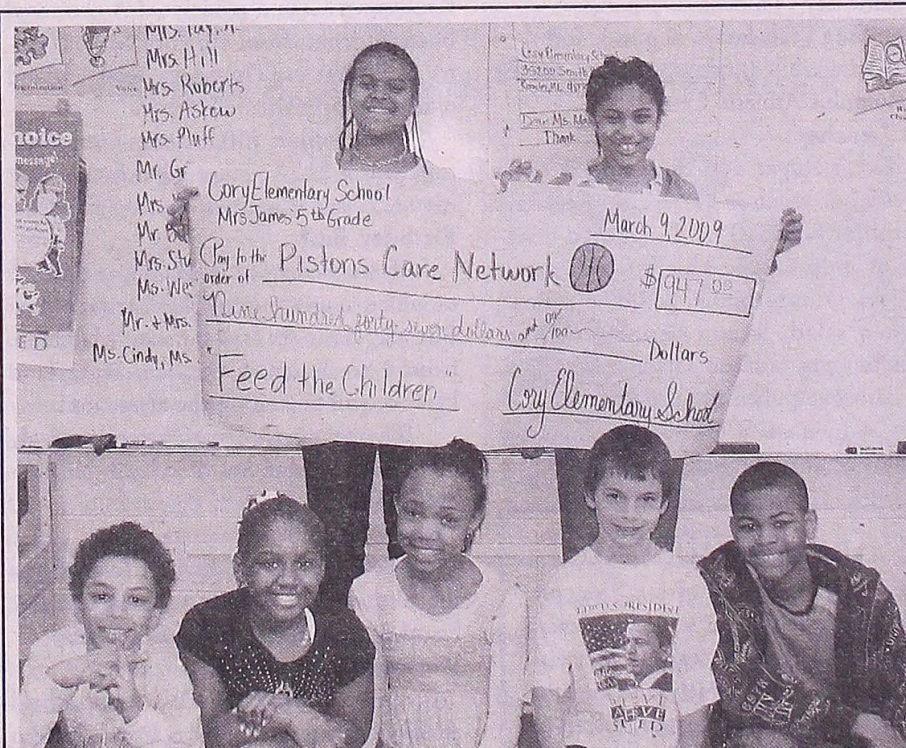
Contributions may be dropped off on:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cory Stories



Wallerend Ezin (second from right) of Consolidated Financial discussed "Girls Working in Finance and Consumer Math" with fourth-graders participating in an afterschool program at Cory Elementary School in Romulus. The students – including (from left) Ciara Williams, Ayanna Bell, and Mariah Lawson – learned about corporations and the workings of the stock market. Ezin also provides incentives (such as pizza and ice-cream treats) for students with perfect attendance.



Students in Mrs. James's fifth-grade class at Cory Elementary collected \$947 that was donated to the Pistons Care Network / Feed The Children (FTC) for the hungry in Metro Detroit and throughout Michigan. Representing their class were: (from left) front – D'Angelo Contesso, Kyra Mills, Tazhane'-Moet Willis, Layth Douglas, and Jesse Dupree; back – Anthalynn Howard and Barbara Young.

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

Romulus

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AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information, including a list of required materials/forms.

Lunch Out

The Romulus Senior Center's next "lunch out" destination will be Logan's Roadhouse (Monday, March 23, 11 a.m.).

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Casino Trips

If you're feeling lucky, you won't want to miss these upcoming trips:

- **Odawa Casino** (Thursday, April 16; \$120),
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Tuesday, April 28; \$15),
- **Seneca/Niagara Falls** (Saturday, May 2, through Sunday, May 3; \$135),
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Wednesday, May 13; \$15), and
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Wednesday, June 3; \$15).

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered by the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes crumb-topped scrod, meatloaf, chicken salad, lemon pepper chicken, cheeseburgers, seafood salad, coney dogs, and barbecue pulled pork.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

Wayne County's Nutrition Program feeds thousands of senior citizens (age 60+) via the Meals on Wheels program for the homebound and the congregate meals program offered at sites like the Romulus Senior Center each weekday. Don't go hungry. Meals are **free** for those who qualify.

For more information, call:

1-800-851-1454

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Homestead Tax Help

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will be on hand each Monday *by appointment only* to help seniors (age 65 and older) and disabled individuals prepare their Homestead Property Tax forms.

Call the Center for an appointment.

Garden Party

Celebrate the arrival of spring at the Senior Center's Garden Party, set for Monday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature catering by Veronica's and music by Mike Wolverton.

Tickets (\$15 each; available in advance only) are now on sale. No tickets will be sold after Monday, April 13.

Great Lakes International Banjo Convention

Banjo music fans won't want to miss this trip to Dearborn for the final day of the Great Lakes International Banjo Convention. The bus will depart at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, and return at approximately midnight.

Cost is \$10 plus dinner at Sabina's. Advance registration is required.

Quilt Exhibit

The Ford Senior Center bus will be traveling to the Belleville Area Museum at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 27, to see the "Patches & Patterns" quilt exhibit.

Cost is \$2 for transportation plus \$2 for admission. Bring additional funds for a stop for ice cream.

Advance registration is required.

Greektown Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Greektown Casino is for you! A chartered bus will depart from the Ford Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

A cost of just \$10 includes transportation plus a \$15 voucher good for food or money. Space is limited; sign up early!

Birthday Bash

If you were born in March, and are 55 or older, come out to the Center's next Birthday Bash, set for Thursday, March 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cake, ice cream, and karaoke will be among the attractions.

There's no charge to attend; simply preregister by Monday, March 23. No children, please.

"Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

Watercolor Workshops

A drop-in Watercolor Workshop is held at the Center each Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost per class is \$7 plus supplies (bring your own or pay an extra \$1.50).

Check Your Blood Pressure

The Ford Senior Center has tentatively scheduled a free blood-pressure check from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 26. □

Auction & Wine Tasting



Among the 100+ people who enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's 10th Annual Silent Auction and Wine Tasting, held on March 13 at the Crowne Plaza, were: (from left) front – Mark Lewkowicz, Candy Lewkowicz, and Bonnie Howell; back – Mike Lewkowicz, Dawn Lewkowicz, and Mackey Howell. Photos by R. E. Kadau



State Representative Doug Geiss (right) and Chamber executive director Karen La Belle (standing) visited with artist Leo Kuschel and his wife Sue. Kuschel donated a number of his paintings for the auction.



Auctioneer Doug Dalton (right) exhorted his audience to bid even higher on the painting exhibited by Chamber president Keith Johnston. Photos by R. E. Kadau

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
 Birthdate _____ Time _____
 Weight _____ Length _____
 Birthplace _____
 Parents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Paternal Grandparents _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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 Groom's Name _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bride's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Groom's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bridesmaids _____
 Groomsmen _____
 Date of Engagement _____
 Date of Wedding _____
 Place _____
 City _____ State _____
 Reception _____
 City _____ State _____
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Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived!

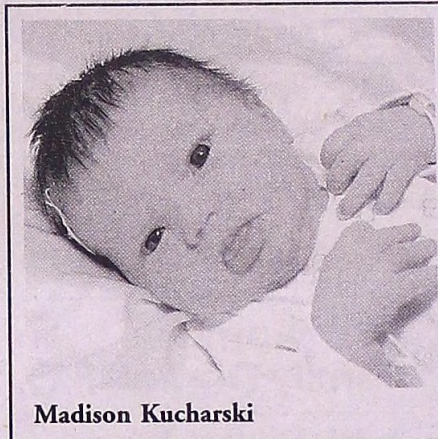
Madison Marie Kucharski

Kevin and Stacey Kucharski of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their first daughter, Madison Marie.

Madison was born in Oakwood Hospital at 4:49 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2009, weighing 7 lbs., 3 oz., and measuring 20.75 in.

Especially excited about the new arrival was her big brother, Tyler Joseph Kucharski.

Also giving Madison a warm welcome into the family were her paternal grandparents, Fred and Roxanne Kucharski, and her maternal grandparents, Charlie and Vickie Cribbs (all of Romulus). □



Madison Kucharski

Obituaries

Edward Matthews

Edward Matthews of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the age of 69.

The native of McDonough, Georgia, was born on Friday, July 21, 1939.

Edward retired from General Motors Power Train after 25 years of service. He enjoyed keeping his car clean and shining. A true family man, he especially loved watching his grandson play basketball.

Surviving Edward are his wife, Sallie R. (Battle) Matthews; 2 daughters, Alfreda R. (Brian) Rooks-Jordan (Pittsfield Township, MI) and Tonya T. Rutledge (Romulus); a grandson, Jon M. Swagerty, Jr. (Romulus); his mother, Pauline (Finnie) Matthews

(Atlanta, GA); 3 brothers, Bobby Matthews (Douglasville, GA), Fred Matthews (Atlanta), and Jerry (Amy) Matthews (Ann Arbor, MI); and 3 sisters, Josephine Robinson, Ida (Richard) Mitchell, and Betty (Earl) Swanson (all of Atlanta).

Among those who preceded him in passing was his father, James Matthews.

A funeral service was held at Romulus Community Baptist Church, with Reverend Hiram McBurroughs, Jr., officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorials contributions to Arbor Hospice would be greatly appreciated.

Thomas A. "Tommy" Sloan-Slatinsky

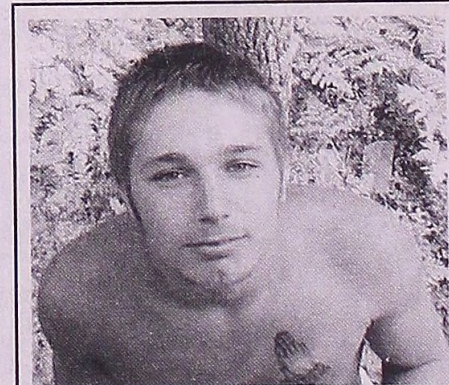
Thomas A. "Tommy" Sloan-Slatinsky of Romulus, Michigan, passed away suddenly on Friday, March 6, 2009, at the age of 19.

The son of Sherri Sloan was born in Garden City, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 13, 1990.

Tommy was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved the outdoors and spending time with his uncles up north.

Tommy was true to himself and all who knew him. He was always surrounded by friends, and loved spending time with those close to him. He will be sorely missed by all his friends and family.

Surviving Tommy are his mother; a sister, Keirstyn Slatinsky; his grandparents, Steve and Lydia Trubilowicz; his great-grandmother, Ruth Sloan; 2 uncles, Robert (Julie) Sloan and Timothy (Doreen) Sloan; an aunt, Tammy (Jeffrey) Caverly; and several great uncles, great aunts, cousins, and friends.



Tommy Sloan-Slatinsky

Predeceasing him was his grandfather, James Sloan.

A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, March 11, at Salowich & Stevens Funeral Home (Detroit, MI). Cremation rites were accorded, and his ashes will be spread among his favorite hunting areas.

Memorial tributes directed to the family would be greatly appreciated. □

As part of our commitment to community service, **the little paper** prints obituaries, free of charge, for the residents of Romulus, Taylor, Belleville, and Huron Township.

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